CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i). ALTERATION OF AREA.

18. During the year the reserved forest areas received an addition of 14,124 acres by settlement and transfer from protected forests and lost 368 acres by disafforestation.

19. The following statement shows the changes that have taken place in the area under the management and control of the Forest Department in the Northern Circle :—

Class of Forest.	On 1st April 1892.	Added during the year.	Excluded or transferred during the year.	On 30th June 1893.	Remarks.
	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	
Reserved	933 144	22 44	0 368	954 477	
Protected	601 386	.....	2 53	599 333	
Leased	678 320	.....	.....	678 320	

The additions to reserved area were chiefly due to the acquisition, in the Surat Division, of the A'malchuni forest measuring 229 acres, formerly personal inám, which on the death of the Inámdár reverted to Government, and to the conversion of 13,895 acres of protected forests in the Panch Maháls under Government Resolution No. 6867, dated 27th August 1892. The principal disforestment was in the East Thána Division, in which 233 acres of reserved and 1,331 acres of protected forests were excluded during the year, as the land in question now forms part of the Tánsa Lake basin.

20. The distribution among forest divisions of the legally constituted area on the 1st April 1892 and 30th June 1893 is now exhibited :—

Forest Division.	Area on 1st April 1892.	Area on 30th June 1893.	Difference.	Remarks.
	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	
East Thána	589 297	678 288	+88 631	Váda Range included in East Thána for the purpose of this statement.
West Thána	679 384	588 147	—91 233	
Surat	*68 153	*68 382	+229	* Exclusive of the leased forests in the Dángs.
Panch Maháls	197 316	218 633	+21 317	
Total ...	1,534 530	1,554 170	.....	

21. Under the authority of Government Resolution No. 985, dated 4th February 1893, the following alterations in the two control charges of Thána were made ; the changes taking effect from 1st April 1893:—

(*a*) The divisions were called Eastern and Western instead of Southern and Northern, and

(*b*) The tálukas were redistributed as under :—

Eastern Division.	Western Division.
1. Kalyán.	1. Sálsette.
2. Sháhápur.	2. Bassein.
3. Mokháda (exclusive of the Taláhsri Mahál)	3 Máhim.
4. Bhiwndi.	4. Dáhánu.
5. Váda.	5. Umbargaon Petha.
6. Murbád.	6. Taláhsri Mahál.

22. The benefits obtained by this arrangement are the equalization of the areas of forests in the two divisions and greater facility of inspection. On the 30th June 1893, therefore, the forest area of the two divisions stood thus:—

Division.	Reserved Forest.		Protected Forest.		Total.	
	Sq. m	a.	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.
East Thána...	352	569	325	359	678	288
West Thána	314	173	273	614	588	147
Total ...	667	102	599	333	1,266	435

(ii). FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

23. Forest settlement has been in progress with the following results in each of the forest divisions in which Forest Settlement Officers have been at work.

West Thána.

24. Considerable progress was made in the settlement of the forests of Máhim, Dáhánu and Umbargaon, *i.e.* in the ranges in which the work had yet to be done. The scheme which had been prepared by Mr. Owen, Forest Settlement Officer, but not completed by him before his departure on leave, was, during the year under review, revised and reported on by his successor Mr. McIver after personal inspection of the forests, followed by discussions with the Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer, but the final orders of Government had not been obtained before the close of the year.

25. The Forest Settlement Officer also worked in the Dáhánu and Umbargaon ranges during the year, and the forests of 19 villages in the former were settled, and the proposals are awaiting sanction of Government. If Mr. McIver's work had not unfortunately been interrupted owing to his failing health, on account of which he was obliged to take furlough on medical certificate at the commencement of April, he would have been able to show a much larger amount of work.

26. It is satisfactory to note, however, that a distinct advance has been made in the settlement of the forests of this division, and that really all that now remains to be done could probably be effected in one full season's successful work.

East Thána.

27. Government in their Resolution No. 9848, dated 15th December 1892, appointed Mr. Orr, I. C. S., as Forest Demarcation and Settlement Officer of the tálukas of Kalyán, Bhiwndi, Murbád and Sháhápur, including Mokháda of the Thána District and Karjat and Khálápur of the Kolába District.

28. From 5th January, the date of taking over charge, to 29th February 1893 he was chiefly engaged in the Kolába District of the Southern Circle, and did not commence work in the East Thána Division until the 1st March. During the last three months of the field season, however, he contrived to inspect minutely and finally report on all the forests in 25 villages of the Murbád Táluka aggregating 16 square miles. His order in respect to the right to tâhâl granted to the people in these villages has given rise to an appeal which